

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): An image forming apparatus for forming an image on a photoconductive element with image forming means, comprising:

an apparatus body

a plurality of image forming cartridges removably mounted to said apparatus body in a form of a stack; and

a structural member for partitioning off a space between nearby ones of said plurality of image forming cartridges mounted to said apparatus body;

wherein a plurality of photoconductive elements each are supported by a respective one of said plurality of image forming cartridges beforehand, or said plurality of photoconductive elements are supported by said apparatus body beforehand such that when said plurality of image forming cartridges are mounted to said apparatus body, said image forming means supported by said image forming cartridges beforehand each partly contact an associated one of said plurality of photoconductive elements.

Claims 2-42 (Canceled).